

Appl. No. 09/834,410
Amdt. dated August 15, 2003
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENTREMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants and their representative wish to thank Examiner Young and his supervisor for the telephonic interview held on June 17, 2003. During this interview, a number of issues were clarified and an amendment was proposed that have helped the Applicants to more fully address the concerns of the Examiners. Applicants thank Examiner Young and his supervisor for their time and the courtesy of extending the interview.

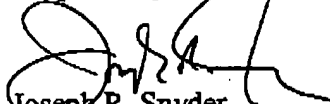
Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-8 and 10-26 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2 and 9 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 2 and 9.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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